Amendments to the Claims:

1-123. (canceled.

124. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:270;

(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:270, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:269;

(d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:269; or

(e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209962;

wherein, the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.

125. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:270.

126. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:270, lacking its associated signal peptide.

127-128. (canceled).

129. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:269.

130. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:269.

131. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209962.

132-134. (canceled).

135. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 124.

136. (previously presented) The vector of Claim 135, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

137. (previously presented) A host cell comprising the vector of Claim 135.

138. (previously presented) The host cell of Claim 137, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.